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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted  
to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for  
Patents, via the EFS pursuant to 37 CFR §1.8 on July 30, 2009:

Name: Sheryl L. Hutchings

Signature: Sheryl L. Hutchings

**RESPONSE PURSUANT TO**  
**37 CFR §1.116**  
**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
**GROUP ART UNIT 3771**

Our Case No.: 10703/042 (PA-5375-RFB)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Darin G. Schaeffer, et al.

Serial No.: 10/769,962

Filing Date: February 2, 2004

For: TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE AND  
LOADING DILATOR

Examiner: Matter, Kristen Clarette

Group Art Unit No.: 3771

Confirmation No.: 9118

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the final Office Action mailed June 9, 2009.

A **Listing of Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 6 of this paper, and include both  
an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing drawing changes.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 15  
of this paper.